

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 6 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please replace the following claims with the new versions shown below.

1 (Twice Amended) A method for producing a body from nanoparticulate material, comprising the steps of:

- a. providing at least one type of sinterable precursor nanoparticulate material,
- b. attriting a predetermined volume of said precursor nanoparticulate material or materials under a protective non-reactive fluid blanket having substantially higher density than that of water, and breaking up substantially all aggregates and mechanically removing substantially all adsorbed volatiles, moisture, atmospheric gases or contaminants from the surface of said nanoparticulates or from the fresh surfaces generated during attrition,
- c. separating substantially all contaminants thus removed from the deaggregated nanoparticulates,
- d. removing the protective fluid blanket from the decontaminated nanoparticulates using vacuum distillation.

- e. desorbing the surface of the nanoparticulates by applying a sufficiently high vacuum,
 - f. allowing a predetermined volume of a suitable surfactant to adsorb onto the surface of the said desorbed nanoparticulates such that at most 50% of the nanoparticulates' surface will be coated with a monolayer of said surfactant.
 - g. dispersing said surfactant-coated nanoparticulates in a predetermined volume of a suitable degradable thermoplastic binder to form a homogeneous thermoplastic compound
 - h. shaping said thermoplastic compound into a green body,
 - i. extracting substantially all of the organic thermoplastic material from said green body and sintering the thus obtained organic-free preform.
2. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the said nanoparticulate materials are selected from the class of metals and their alloys, ceramics and their alloys and mixtures of metals and ceramics and their alloys.
3. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the said degradable thermoplastic binder ingredients are selected from the class of polyolefins, waxes, plasticizers, greases, oils, surfactants and mixtures of these.
4. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the formation of aggregates is reduced or prevented.

5. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the pyrophoricity of nanoparticulates is controlled.

Please add the following new claims:

8. (New) The method of Claim 2, wherein said nanoparticulate materials are selected from the group consisting of metal oxides, carbides, borides, nitrides, silicides, aluminas, mullite, and zeolites.